

MINUTES OF MEETING
HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL

DATE: 16 December 2008

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Health Policy Forum
Department of Health

ATTENDANCE:

Council: **Present:** Victoria Almeida, Esq., (Vice Chair), Edward F. Almon, Joseph Dowling, M.D., John W. Flynn, Wallace Gernt, Sen. Catherine E. Graziano, R.N., Ph.D., Robert Hamel, R.N., Amy Lapierre, Thomas M. Madden, Esq., Robert J. Quigley, D.C (Chair), Reverend David Shire (Secretary)

Excused: Raymond C. Coia, Esq., Maria R. Gil, Denise Panichas

Not Present: Joseph V. Centofanti, M.D., Gary J. Gaube, Robert Ricci, Robert Whiteside

Staff: Valentina D. Adamova, MBA, Michael K. Dexter, MPA, Joseph G. Miller, Esq., Michael Varadian, JD, MBA

Public: (Attached)

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms and Time Extension for the Minutes Availability

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM. Minutes of the Health Services Council meeting of 28 October 2008 were adopted as submitted. The Chair noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of eleven in favor and none opposed (11-0) that the availability of the minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Almon, Dowling, Flynn, Gernt, Graziano, Hamel, Lapierre, Madden, Quigley, Shire.

The Chair, Vice Chair and Michael Varadian, JD, MBA thanked the Health Services Council members for their contribution.

2. General Order of Business

The first item on the agenda was the *Report of the Committee of the Health Services Council on the application of **Sleep HealthCenters, LLC** for initial licensure as an Organized Ambulatory*

Care Facility to operate a sleep center in Cumberland. Staff summarized the application and the deliberations of the Committee on this matter.

Mr. Wineberg, legal counsel to the applicant, noted that the applicant is continuing their discussion with Landmark Medical Center.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed by a vote of eleven in favor and none opposed (11-0) to recommend that the applications be approved subject to the conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Almon, Dowling, Flynn, Gernt, Graziano, Hamel, Lapierre, Madden, Quigley, Shire.

The next item on the agenda was the *Report of the Committee of the Health Services Council on the application of **Epoch Sleep Centers, LLC** for initial licensure as an Organized Ambulatory Care Facility to operate a sleep center in Lincoln.* Staff summarized the application and the deliberations of the Committee on this matter.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed by a vote of eleven in favor and none opposed (11-0) to recommend that the applications be approved subject to the conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Almon, Dowling, Flynn, Gernt, Graziano, Hamel, Lapierre, Madden, Quigley, Shire.

Representatives of Epoch Sleep Center, Mr. Fontaine and Mr. Stanchina noted their support for maintaining regulations that require licensure for Organized Ambulatory Care Facilities.

There was discussion regarding writing a letter to the Director of Health to secure an expert to address the Health Services Council regarding the state of the local economy and the fiscal environment relating to health care facilities and services in Rhode Island and, further, to note the need for a state health plan. A motion was made, seconded, and passed by a vote of eleven in favor and none opposed (11-0) to recommend that a letter be written by the Chair on behalf of the Council. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Almon, Dowling, Flynn, Gernt, Graziano, Hamel, Lapierre, Madden, Quigley, Shire.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova, MBA
Health Economics Specialist